

(No. 13.)



1859.

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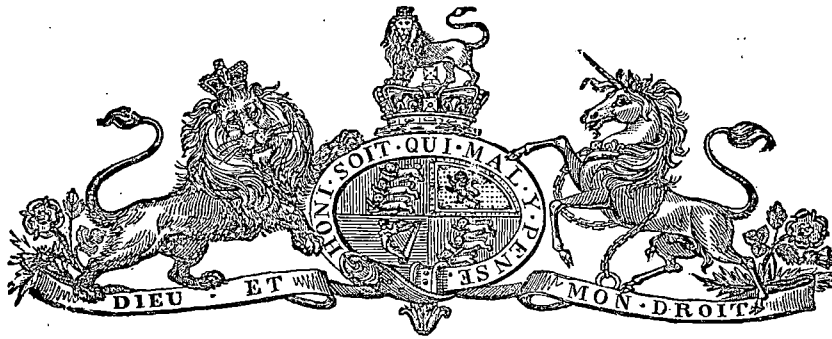
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P A U P E R I S M.

DESPATCHES CONTAINING THE TERMS IMPOSED BY THE IMPERIAL  
GOVERNMENT FOR THE MAINTENANCE BY THE COLONY OF EXPIREE  
LUNATICS, INVALIDS, AND ORPHANS.

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Laid on the Table by Mr. Henty, and ordered by the Council to be printed,  
24 August, 1859.



(No. 74.)

Government House, Van Diemen's Land, 17th March, 1848.

MY LORD,

I was instructed by Your Lordship, in a Despatch No. 22, dated 26th October, 1846, to direct my particular attention to the subject of the support of Paupers in this Colony, as soon as circumstances might enable me so to do.

The subject has been before me for some time, and I have procured the Returns, which I forward herewith, which will throw much light upon the different questions which will require to be considered.

Your Lordship will see, in the Statement of the Expenditure of the Colony for the year 1847, a charge for the support of Paupers or Invalids, amounting to £3846 2s. 8d. The Estimate for the same service for the present year is £4040; and there appears to be every probability of a steady increase for some years to come in the charge for this service.

The persons who thus become chargeable to the Colony may be classed as follows:—

- 1st. Free men; that is, persons who came Free to the Colony.
- 2nd. Those Free by Servitude, or by holding Conditional Pardons.
- 3rd. Orphans, or children whose parents have deserted them, who are taken into the Orphan School.

As regards the First Class mentioned above, it requires but little notice. The persons comprised under it are few in number, and consist principally of Lunatics. Each case is fully investigated before an order for admission into the Hospital is given.

The Second forms a more important class. It is composed *partly* of men who have been sent out from England at an age so far advanced as to afford but little prospect of their being able, at the expiration of their sentences, to procure employment, or to support themselves in any way by their own labour; *partly* of men who, at the time of their expatriation, were labouring under some disease or infirmity, which, although it was not of such a character as to incapacitate them from performing certain duties at the Convict Stations, was severe enough to prevent their maintaining themselves after the expiration of their Sentences; *partly* of men who, having been, by disease or accident, during their compulsory service in the employment of the Government, incapacitated from labour, and been placed in the Hospitals or Invalid Depôts, have, as soon as they were emancipated, been thrown upon the charity of the Colonial Government; and *partly* of men who, having become free, either by pardon or servitude, and having earned for a period their own livelihood, have been induced, either by disease or accident, to call upon the Government to afford them that support which they were unable to derive from their own exertions.

The Third Class is more numerous than it ought to be: the ties of natural feeling do not appear to be strong enough to withstand the temptation which the high wages at Port Phillip and elsewhere hold out to persons in the lower class of life in this Colony. There are many instances of both parents leaving their children to the charity of the community here and betaking themselves to Port Phillip.

I may here remark, that the only mode in which support or assistance can be afforded to these classes of patients is, by sending the sick and aged to the Hospitals or Invalid Depôts

in charge of the Convict Department, where they are placed upon the footing of the Convict Patients under treatment at those Establishments; and children to the Orphan Schools.

In bringing this question under Your Lordship's notice, I would beg to refer to a Despatch from Lord Stanley, No. 507, dated 5th August, 1845, transmitting copies of a correspondence which had taken place between the Colonial Department and the Home Office, relative to the principles to be adopted by the Inspectors of Prisons in the selection of Convicts for transportation to Van Diemen's Land.

In considering the Reports of the Inspectors of Prisons which form part of the Enclosures to the Despatch before mentioned, it would appear, that up to the 21st December, 1844, these gentlemen had been in the habit of sending out to this Colony persons who had lost limbs, provided they were not obliged to use crutches; and that age, unless accompanied by such weakness as rendered the person at the time incompetent to labour, was not considered by them as a sufficient reason for not carrying out the sentence of Transportation.

The reasons by which these gentlemen support the rule under which they acted were sufficiently valid, could the Colony be considered only in the light of a Prison, or a receptacle for Convicts. But this is not the case. The Convicts form, it is true, a large portion of the population, and their services have been, and are even now, of the utmost importance to the community; but from the services of many of the Invalids the Colony has in no sense derived a benefit: and it would appear rather unjust to call upon the Colonists to furnish funds for the support of persons in whom they could, by no possibility, feel any interest—who had in no sense contributed to their welfare.

If reference be made to Mr. Stephen's Letter to Mr. Philipps, dated 12th July, 1845, which also forms a portion of the Enclosures to Lord Stanley's Despatch before mentioned, a principle will be found to be therein suggested, which, if adopted, would remove every just cause of complaint; and it is this:—that persons transported to this Colony, who should at the expiration of their sentences, by becoming holders of Tickets-of-leave or Conditional Pardons, be thrown upon their own resources, and be unable to maintain themselves, should be supported by the Home Government. This, however, goes further than necessary: it would throw upon the Home Government the charge of all Paupers who had ever been Convicts, irrespective altogether of the length of time which had elapsed since the date of their becoming Free. The justice of the case would, I submit, be met by a Regulation such as the following:—All persons who have been transported to this Colony, and who have become Free either by servitude or by the receipt of a Conditional Pardon, and who shall be, through disease or infirmity, unable to support themselves, and therefore dependent upon assistance to be afforded by the State, shall, if they have not been Free for a period of ten years previous to the reception of such assistance, be chargeable to the Home Government: if they have been Free for more than ten years, the assistance shall be furnished from the Revenue of the Colony. This Regulation, however, is not intended to apply to those who come into the Hospitals for temporary treatment, but merely to those who, from circumstances connected with their ailments, either mentally or bodily, may be considered as incapable of earning a livelihood for themselves, and therefore as permanent burdens upon the Revenue.

In the Return which accompanies this Despatch, those who would, under the operation of the Rule above mentioned, be chargeable to the Home Government are marked in red ink, and the number of those thus chargeable appears to be 84. As, however, this Return was made for 1846, it will not of course be correct for the last year; indeed, it is only intended as illustrative of the state of things which has existed, and to which it is desirable to put an end by the adoption of some general principles upon which the assistance which the Government is compelled to afford to persons who would otherwise, in all probability, be left to perish, may be fairly apportioned between the British and the Colonial Treasury.

I forward an abstract of a case which has just been brought before me, and which illustrates clearly the operation of the rule as at present acted upon, as regards men who have received their pardons while actually under treatment in the Hospital, or while labouring under infirmities or disease which would render them fitting inmates of a Hospital or Invalid Depôt.

I have, &c.

W. DENISON.

*The Right Honourable* EARL GREY.

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(No. 200.)

*Downing-street, 23rd December, 1848.*

SIR,

I HAVE communicated with the Lords of the Treasury on the subject of your Despatch No. 74 of the 17th March last, containing your views upon the support of Paupers in Van Diemen's Land, and enclosing some returns in illustration of the arguments you have adduced in discussing the subject.

After due consideration of these papers, their Lordships have agreed that it is reasonable to relieve the Colony from any further demand for the maintenance in Convict Hospitals or Invalid Depôts of persons sent out as Convicts, who, either at the time of their arrival in the Colony, or when they ceased to be employed in compulsory labour in Public Works, were incapacitated from age or organic disease, or mental or bodily infirmity, from supporting themselves by labour.

Adverting, however, to the great benefit which Van Diemen's Land generally has derived, and continues to derive, from the labour of the Convict population while employed on the public works, without charge to the Colony for their maintenance, or in private service, when assigned, as well as from the large pecuniary outlay from the funds of this country on account of the Convict Establishments, I have to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government do not feel that there are sufficient grounds to warrant them in charging the funds of this country with any further liability for the relief of those who, having been able to maintain themselves when they were released from compulsory labour, may afterwards have become paupers.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,  
GREY.

*Lieutenant-Governor*

Sir WILLIAM DENISON.

(No. 154.)  
[Executive.]

*Van Diemen's Land, Government House,  
2nd July, 1853.*

MY LORD DUKE,

IN a Despatch No. 32, dated 22nd February, 1853, Your Grace, in notifying to me that Transportation to Van Diemen's Land was immediately to cease, was pleased to direct me to call upon the Comptroller-General to report his views as to the best course to be taken in carrying out the progressive reductions in the different Convict Establishments; and to annex to this Report such comments or observations as might appear to me best adapted to bring the whole subject clearly before Her Majesty's Government.

I have the honour to forward herewith the Report which I have received from the Comptroller-General, accompanied with such tabulated Abstracts of the Registers of the Department as will enable Your Grace to see at a glance the probable period at which the principal reductions in the department will begin to operate in lessening materially the expenditure.

3. This Report is so clear and precise as to leave me but little to say, so far as regards the reductions to be made in the Convict Department itself. I fully concur with the Comptroller-General in recommending the maintenance, for some years at all events, of the existing system, which has worked, and is working in the most satisfactory manner; and I have every confidence that, under the judicious arrangements suggested by Mr. Hampton, the difficulties attendant upon the transference of the Convicts from Norfolk Island will be overcome, and that the discipline to which they will be subjected at Port Arthur will be productive of such effects upon them as to allow their gradual emancipation to take place with the least possible injury to the Colony.

4. The Comptroller-General, in his Report, has confined himself of course to that branch of the subject which has reference to the changes to be introduced into his own Department: but as the arrangements of the Colonial Government are in many instances dependent on, or controlled by, considerations connected with the penal condition of the Colony, it will be my duty now to bring these under Your Grace's notice, in order that I may be informed as to the views of Her Majesty's Government with regard to them; and be furnished with such general instructions as may be sufficient for my guidance in organising the Legislative and Executive changes which must sooner or later be adopted in this Colony, in consequence of the cessation of Transportation.

1st.—As regards the treatment of Offenders.

5. As Transportation has hitherto been the form under which the more severe kinds of secondary punishment have been inflicted, the practice has been to send all persons sentenced to transportation to the different Penal Stations, where the cost of their maintenance, and that of enforcing the discipline to which they are subjected, is defrayed exclusively by the British Treasury.

6. From henceforward of course not only must an alteration be made in the Criminal Law of the Colony, substituting certain periods of imprisonment with hard labour for transportation, but arrangements will have to be made by the Colony for establishing and maintaining certain places of detention where the labour of offenders so sentenced may be made available for the construction of such Public Works as can be performed by them without affording an opportunity of escape, or relaxing in any way the discipline to which they must be subjected in order to make the punishment effective.

7. In these arrangements the penal condition of a large proportion of the population must be specially noted: for all those who may still be Convicts, under whatever form of indulgence they may be living, will, should they subject themselves to punishment, be maintained at the expense of the British Treasury at some of the present Convict Stations; while those who have always been free, or whose term of punishment has expired, or who have received a Conditional Pardon, will have to be maintained by the Colony.

8. Taking this, however, as the general rule, there will be certain classes of exceptions with regard to which it will be desirable that I should receive from Your Grace such general instructions as may guide me in dealing with the particular cases as they occur. For instance, a Convict whose character has been notoriously bad, who has been sentenced again and again to every kind of punishment, who has perhaps been sent out to the Colony as an incorrigible offender, becomes free, and commits in a short time an offence which subjects him to a long period of imprisonment with hard labour. Is this man to be maintained at the expense of the Colony simply because he happened to be free at the time he committed the offence for which he is undergoing punishment? It would seem hardly fair to charge the Colony with the expense of maintaining a man to whom a prison is almost a home.

9. I am aware that it would be difficult to define the amount of previous criminality which ought to transfer the charge of maintaining an offender from the Colony to the Convict Department. Indeed it would be impossible to do so in any written instruction. Some discretion should therefore be given to the Lieutenant-Governor in interpreting the general rule, by a due exercise of which constant discussion between the Convict Department and the Colonial Government will be avoided, as well as constant references to the Secretary of State.

2nd.—As regards the maintenance of Sick, Invalids, Lunatics, &c.

10. At present the various Establishments for the treatment of the sick, the support of the aged and infirm, and the care of lunatics, are maintained by the Convict Department. To these different Establishments the Colonial Government has been accustomed to send those for whom it may be compelled to provide the particular kind of accommodation which their case may require, paying of course some given sum for their treatment and maintenance.

11. Here, again, questions will arise as to the fund upon which any given individual will be chargeable.

12. In 1848 I brought the subject under the notice of Lord Grey; and in a Despatch No. 200, dated 23rd December 1848, I was told "that the Colony was not to be chargeable for the maintenance in Convict Hospitals or Invalid Depôts of persons sent out as Convicts who, either at the time of their arrival in the Colony, or when they ceased to be employed in compulsory labour on government works, were incapacitated, from age or organic disease, or mental or bodily infirmity, from supporting themselves."

13. At present it is true that it is perfectly competent to Her Majesty's Government to specify the conditions upon which any classes of persons shall be admitted into Establishments maintained at the expense of the British Treasury; but in a few years it will be found advisable to transfer these Establishments to the Colonial Government, by which the relation between the two parties will be precisely reversed: and in order to obviate any risk of future discussion, I would suggest a modification of the rule laid down in the Despatch before quoted, to the effect that the maintenance of those who while they are Convicts become incapable of maintaining themselves, either in consequence of age, chronic disease, or mental or bodily infirmity, and of those who at the time of their landing in the Colony were above sixty years of age, should be charged to the British Treasury; while the cost of the maintenance of all free men should be paid by the Colony.

3rd.—Religious Instruction.

14. In a Despatch, No. 554, dated 22nd October, 1845, Lord Stanley notified to the Lieutenant-Governor the appointment of Six Missionary Chaplains; and in a previous Despatch, No. 553, instructions were given as to the mode in which they were to be employed. At present but one of the six originally sent out from England is officiating as a Missionary Chaplain, but others have been from time to time appointed to the vacancies caused by the resignation or promotion of these Reverend

Gentlemen; and there are now four receiving pay from the Convict Department,—one has lately resigned, whose vacancy is not filled up, and the salary of the sixth is distributed, in accordance with the recommendation of the Bishop, among sundry Catechists officiating in the remote Districts of the Colony. As the reduction in the number of the men for whose benefit these Chaplains were originally sent out will in a very short time remove the only ostensible grounds of claim which can be made upon the Home Government for their support, I should suggest that in those cases in which it might be in the power of the Lieutenant-Governor to nominate one of the Missionary Chaplains to a vacant Parish in the Colony it should at once be done, and the vacancy thus caused should not be filled up; while, with regard to those for whose provision no such opportunity may offer itself, notice should be given to them that at the end of three years from the present date, at which period the passholder class of Convicts will no longer exist, all further payments from the British Treasury to Missionary Chaplains will cease.

4th.—Contributions to the Police, and towards the expense of Witnesses in Criminal Trials.

15. The amount of annual contribution is £25,000, of which £24,000 is for Police and Gaols, and £1000 for Witnesses' expenses.

16. It is not necessary that I should enter into the detail of the reasons which induced Her Majesty's Government to grant this amount of aid to the Colony. It is evident, however, that the same reasons will apply, though with diminished force, for some years to come. I would wish, however, to call Your Grace's attention to the fact that since the period at which the amount of this contribution was fixed the expense of the Police has very much increased,—that now, even with diminished numbers, the cost is nearly double that of 1845,—that the cessation of Transportation, by enhancing the price of labour, has to a certain extent been the cause of the increase. Under these circumstances I would beg to suggest that no decrease should take place in the amount of this contribution till the commencement of 1855; and after that a reduction of one sixth should be made every year, so that all payments from the Military Chest on account of Police should cease at the end of the year 1860. A similar reduction should, of course, be made in the contribution towards the expense of Witnesses.

17. It is of course impossible to establish any definite proportion between the relative liabilities of the Mother Country and the Colony in a question of this kind; but the above suggestion seems to me to meet the justice of the case, especially as the Convict Department will be compelled to maintain an effective local Police in the neighbourhood of their own Establishments.

5th.—Contribution towards the Salary of the Lieutenant-Governor.

18. By the Act 8th Vict., No. 8, the Salary of the Lieutenant-Governor is fixed at £4000 per annum, of which sum £2000 has for the last six years and upwards been paid out of the Military Chest. The same reasons which are conclusive as regards the reduction of the sum contributed towards the Police and Gaols apply here; and the diminution in the business of the Convict Department will at the expiration of three years be such as to negative all claim on the part of the Colony to be relieved from the payment of the portion of the Salary of the Lieutenant-Governor. I should therefore recommend that at the termination of three years from the date of this Despatch this payment should cease.

19. I have now brought under Your Grace's notice the reductions in the Convict Department itself, and in those expenses chargeable on the British Treasury which are contingent upon the cessation of Transportation, with the single exception of that of the Military force at present stationed in Van Diemen's Land.

20. With regard to this, as it is a question of a mixed character, involving not only the consideration of the obligation on the part of Her Majesty's Government to place at the disposal of the Colony a Military force of sufficient strength to maintain order among the Convict population, but also that of the Military support to be given to Colonies in general, I need only say that for some years to come a Military force of some strength will be required to support the Civil authorities in maintaining order among the very bad class of offenders who will be left on the hands of the Government; and that I should be sorry to see any reduction in the Military force stationed in the Colony until the experiment of transferring the men from Norfolk Island has been fully carried out.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord Duke,

Your Grace's most obedient humble Servant,

W. DENISON.

*His Grace the DUKE OF NEWCASTLE.*

(No. 23.)

*Downing-street, 14th February, 1854.*

SIR,

I HAVE had under my consideration your Despatch No. 154, of the 2nd July last, accompanied by a Report from the Comptroller-General, and containing the views which you have formed on the steps to be taken for the progressive reduction of the Convict Establishments in Van Diemen's Land, in consequence of the abolition of Transportation to that Colony.

I shall now proceed to convey to you, in succession, the decisions of Her Majesty's Government on the leading proposals contained in your Despatch.

First, with regard to the apportionment of the expense of future punishment, the general rule of course will be, that convicts who commit fresh offences will be punished at the expense of the Imperial Government, whilst free men or ex-convicts, or holders of conditional pardons, who commit offences will be punished at the expense of the Colony. In order, however, to provide equitably for the case of hardened convicts who may commit fresh crimes very shortly after having served out their time, I have to authorise you further to adopt the following rule:—Any convict who, within twelve months of becoming free, either by expiration of sentence or by receipt of a conditional pardon, shall be convicted of an offence for which he is sentenced to a punishment of two years or upwards, shall be maintained at the expense of the Imperial Government; but no claim whatever shall be admissible upon the Home Government in respect of the punishment of a convict for any fresh crime which he may commit after the lapse of one clear twelvemonth from the date of his becoming free.

Secondly, the maintenance of invalid, lunatic, or pauper convicts, and of those free men who, at the time of their arrival in the Colony as Convicts, were above sixty years of age, but of no other free men, shall be chargeable to the British Treasury.

Thirdly, notice should be given, as you propose, to the several Clergymen concerned, that at the end of three years, at which period the passholder class will no longer exist, the payments from the British Treasury on account of Chaplains will cease.

Fourthly, with reference to the sum of £25,000 which is now annually contributed to the expense of Police and Gaols, you propose that no reduction should occur until the commencement of the year 1855: that, after that date, a reduction of one-sixth should be made every year until the payment is extinguished. This rate of reduction does not appear either sufficiently prompt or sufficiently large. On the other hand, it seems fair that the reductions should be somewhat less in the two first years, when the number of Convicts will still be great, than in subsequent years, when it will be rapidly diminishing. For these reasons the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury have concurred with me in adopting the following scale of reduction, which will commence from the 1st of April, 1854:—

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Reduction of the grant in the first year..... | £3000   |
| Ditto ditto second year .....                 | 4000    |
| Ditto ditto third year.....                   | 6000    |
| Ditto ditto fourth year .....                 | 6000    |
| Ditto ditto fifth year .....                  | 6000    |
|   | <hr/>   |
|   | £25,000 |
|   | <hr/>   |

Fifthly, I see no objection to your proposal that at the end of three years from the date of your Despatch, viz., July 1853, the contribution of £2000 from the British Treasury towards the Governor's salary of £4000 should cease; but it must be borne in mind that, when that event occurs, it would seem material that the Colonial Legislature should be induced to make permanently such provision as it may deem fit for maintaining the salary of the Governor at an adequate amount. You will remember that the supposition (at least in this department) was that such provision had been made: but that the Law Advisers here (concurring with those in Van Diemen's Land) were of opinion that the Act making it was superseded by the provisions of the Act of Parliament establishing the Van Diemen's Land Constitution.

Sixthly, with regard to the request which you submit that no early reduction may be made in the number of Troops maintained in Van Diemen's Land, I have to state that due attention will be paid to the presence of Convicts in the Colony in regulating the strength of the military force which shall be there maintained.

The Comptroller-General in his Report supplies some useful information, and proposes to make reductions as fast as occasions may present themselves.

I have every reliance on your vigilance, and on the zeal and efficiency of Mr. Hampton: but, adverting to the heavy charges which are now thrown on Great Britain for the maintenance of Convict

stations in other parts of the Empire, it is my duty to impress upon you the importance of seizing the earliest opportunity to make every practicable reduction, both in the general expenses of the Convict Department and in the establishment itself.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,  
NEWCASTLE.

*Lieut.-Governor* SIR W. DENISON.

(No. 66.)

*Downing-street, 8th November, 1854.*

SIR,

I HAVE received your Despatch No. 106, of the 22nd of June, requesting, with reference to my predecessor's Despatch No. 23, of the 14th of February last, that you may receive some fuller explanation of the views of Her Majesty's Government with regard to the funds to be charged with the maintenance of Invalid, Lunatic, or Pauper Convicts.

In reply I have to inform you that it was not intended by the Duke of Newcastle, in the paragraph of his Despatch to which you advert, to cancel the instructions on this head conveyed to you by Lord Grey's Despatch of the 23rd December, 1848.

It was the intention of His Grace to sanction the proposal on this head submitted in your Despatch No. 154, of the 2nd of July, 1853, being the same that, with a slight alteration, of which I have to express my approval, you have again recommended in your Despatch now under notice.

You will accordingly be at liberty to act in conformity with this decision.

I have, &c.

G. GREY.

*Lieut.-Governor* Sir WILLIAM DENISON,  
*or*  
*The Officer administering the Government of*  
*Van Diemen's Land.*

*EXTRACT from Sir W. DENISON'S Despatch, No. 106, 22nd June, 1854.*

"I should wish to be informed whether the paragraph (in Despatch No. 23), relating to Invalids, Lunatics, or Pauper Convicts be intended to cancel the instruction conveyed to me in Lord Grey's Despatch, No. 200."

"5. Your Grace will observe that there is a marked difference between the instructions contained in the two Despatches. That, by a literal interpretation of the directions communicated to me in Your Grace's Despatch, No. 23, a Convict sent into Hospital and maintained there for years by the Imperial Government as an Invalid or Lunatic, would at the expiration of his sentence become at once chargeable to the Colony. That a man who on his arrival in the Colony was incapable, from any cause, of earning his livelihood, would, were he under 60 years of age at the date of his landing, be thrown upon the charity of the Colony as soon as he became free.

"6. I would therefore venture to submit that these latter instructions should not be assumed to over-ride those contained in Lord Grey's Despatch above quoted, but to be explanatory of the term *age* which is there made use of, so that the instruction would run thus:—'The Colony to be relieved from the cost of the maintenance in Lunatic Asylums, Hospitals, or Invalid Depôts of persons sent out as Convicts, who at the time of their arrival in the Colony were above 60 years of age, or who, when they ceased to be employed in compulsory labour upon Public Works, were incapacitated by organic disease, or mental or bodily infirmity, from supporting themselves by labour.'"



*Downing-street, 13th May, 1858.*

SIR,

WITH reference to your Despatches No. 115, of the 3rd October 1857, and No. 121, of the 9th October, relative to the Convict Estimate for this year, I enclose for your information copies of two letters addressed to the Treasury by direction of my predecessor; and I have the honor to inform you that the Estimate has been submitted to Parliament in conformity with his suggestion.

I have, &amp;c.

STANLEY.

*Governor Sir H. YOUNG, C. B.**Mr. MERIVALE to Sir C. E. TREVELYAN.*

SIR,

*15th February, 1858.*

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Labouchere to transmit to you, for the consideration of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, the enclosed copy of a Despatch from the Governor of Tasmania, transmitting a Memorandum by the Colonial Secretary remonstrating against the discontinuance of the contribution from this Country to Police and Gaols, and representing that, so long as any Imperial Convicts remain in the Colony, an annual grant of £10,000 ought to be made for this purpose.

Some of the arguments used in this paper are not such as would properly affect the decision of the question; and it is scarcely necessary to say, that Her Majesty's Government must demur to the statement that a large debt ought to be considered as owing to the Colony for the proceeds of Land Revenue taken for Imperial purposes. At a time when the finances of the Colony were embarrassed, and when it was complained that the Land Revenue had seriously fallen off, the Home Government consented to make a large annual payment to the Colony, taking the diminished Land Fund as some set-off against that contribution; and, nevertheless, the annual Revenue from the Land Sales was afterwards restored to the Colony without putting an end to that contribution.

But, without reviewing, at this period, the controversies of bygone times, Mr. Labouchere prefers looking at the present question on its own merits; and he is bound to say that, seeing that a large number of Prisoners under sentences passed in this Country still remain in the Colony in the Convict condition, and that a considerable proportion of the crime of the Colony may be fairly supposed to be committed by them or by others who have been in the same condition, it appears to him no more than equitable that some contribution should continue to be made from this Country towards the expenses of Police and Gaols. The grant for this purpose, which was in course of gradual extinction, was diminished last year to £6000; and Mr. Labouchere is not prepared to propose that it should be increased, but he thinks that a vote for the same amount may with propriety be submitted to Parliament for some years to come, and he begs leave to recommend this course for their Lordships' sanction.

I am, &amp;c.

H. MERIVALE.

*Mr. MERIVALE to Sir C. E. TREVELYAN.*

SIR,

*15th February, 1858.*

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Labouchere to transmit to you, for the consideration of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, the enclosed copy of a Despatch from the Governor of Tasmania, accompanied by the Estimates for the Convict Service for the year ending 31st March, 1859.

\* \* \* \* \*

A strong appeal has been made from the Colony urging the continuance for a time of an allowance towards the expenses of Police and Gaols, in consequence of the large number of persons still remaining in Tasmania who went out as Convicts, and who are said to form a large proportion of those who come before the Tribunals and require punishment. On this subject Mr. Labouchere has, in another letter, offered his opinion, that sufficient grounds are shown to continue for a time the reduced vote of £6000 towards the support of Police and Gaols.

\* \* \* \* \*

I am, &amp;c.

H. MERIVALE.

JAMES BARNARD,  
GOVERNMENT PRINTER, TASMANIA.